WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for correcting lightness of an image, comprising the steps of:

calculating a first scale and a second scale based on an image scale of an original image from image information of the original image;

multiscale retinex processing the original image with respect to the first scale and the second scale; and

synthesizing a result of the multiscale retinex processing with the image information of the original image.

2. A method for correcting lightness of an image according to claim 1, further comprising the step of correcting the result of the multiscale retinex processing based on a gain correction value and an offset correction value.

3. A method for correcting lightness of an image according to claim 2, wherein the offset correction value is corrected based on a histogram of a lightness value against the number of pixels of the original image.

4. A method for correcting lightness of an image according to claim 1, wherein the first scale is a small scale, and the second scale is a large scale.

5. A method for correcting lightness of an image according to claim 4, wherein a radius of the large scale is about 1/2 of a longer side of the original image.

6. A method for correcting lightness of an image according to claim 4, wherein a radius of the small scale is about 1/5 of a longer side of the original image.

7. An image processing device, comprising:

a scale size calculating section for calculating a first scale and a second scale based on an image scale of an original image from image information of the original image; and

a scale retinex processing section for multiscale retinex processing the original image with respect to the first scale and the second scale,

wherein a result of the multiscale retinex processing is synthesized with the image information, thereby generating an output image.

8. An image processing device according to claim 7, wherein the result of the multiscale retinex processing is corrected based on a gain correction value and an offset correction value.

9. An image processing device according to claim 8, wherein the offset correction value is corrected based on a histogram of the lightness value against the number of pixels of the original image.

10. An image processing device according to claim 7, wherein the first scale is a small scale, and the second scale is a large scale.

11. An image processing device according to claim 10, wherein a radius of the large scale is about 1/2 of a longer side of the original image.

12. An image processing device according to claim 10, wherein a radius of the small scale is about 1/5 of a longer side of the original image.